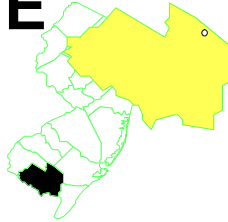


# VINELAND STATE SCHOOL

## NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD980529887



**EPA REGION 2**  
**CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 02**  
Cumberland County  
Vineland

**Other Names:**  
**Vineland Developmental Center (VDC)**

## Site Description

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The Vineland State School site is a residential and treatment facility for mentally handicapped women. The State's Department of Human Services runs the facility, which sits on a 195-acre campus located in a primarily suburban and residential setting on East Landis Avenue in Vineland. The school operated an unregulated incinerator and landfill on the property to dispose of its waste. The incinerator has been dismantled, and the pit was filled in and graded. In the early 1980s, hazardous chemicals including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) may have been dumped at the site. The school property consists of five distinct subsites, where the following activities took place: (1) the school allegedly dumped between 6,000 and 8,000 one-quart containers of mercury-based pesticides into ponded water, about 20 feet below the ground surface; (2) an on-site contractor spilled approximately 150 gallons of PCB-laced transformer oil onto the ground when four large transformers were removed in the mid-1970s; (3) starting in the 1950s, the school used a part of the site as a general dump for any type of wastes, including chemicals produced and used at the school; (4) during the early to mid-1950s, the school dumped an unknown amount of transformer oil laced with PCBs from out-of-service electrical transformers; and (5) approximately 10 cubic yards of pesticides and possibly other chemicals the school used for farming may have been dumped into a 10-foot-deep pit some time during the 1950s. The State of New Jersey investigated a PCB spill that occurred in subsite 2, which led to an extensive cleanup of PCB-contaminated soil, building rubble, concrete and construction material, soil contaminated with gasoline, and asbestos roofing. Approximately 13,620 people within 3 miles of the site depend on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. The school itself houses approximately 1,050 residents.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through Federal and State actions.

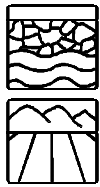
### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

Proposed Date: 12/01/82

Final Date: 09/01/83

## Threats and Contaminants

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Groundwater contains low levels of the pesticides DDT and dieldrin; volatile organic compounds (VOCs); phthalate, which is a plastics by-product; and heavy metals including lead and mercury. Soils in the subsite 2 area contained oil contaminated with PCBs and fluid from electrical transformers. Soils also contained heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and pesticides. As a result of the State investigation, it was determined that the very low levels of contaminants in the soil and groundwater do not pose a threat to human health or the environment.

## Cleanup Approach

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The site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

### Response Action Status

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**Immediate Actions:** The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) installed three monitoring wells and sampled soils at the site. The City of Vineland extended its water main to several homes near the site that previously used water from private wells. In 1988, the NJDEP removed PCB-contaminated soil at subsite 2 and installed a permanent cap over the area. A fence was installed around subsite 2.



**Entire Site:** The State completed a study of contaminants at the site in 1989. The EPA selected a "no action" remedy at the site because of the following conditions: (1) subsite 2 was cleaned up by the immediate actions described above; (2) the State's study of the four areas that remain shows that low contamination levels do not pose a threat to human health; and (3) the City extended its public water supply system to the affected residences near the site. The State will monitor groundwater and the disposal areas on site to ensure that the cleanup effort is effective and that the groundwater under the site remains free of contaminants.

## Environmental Progress

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After studying conditions at the Vineland State School site, the EPA and the State determined that the actions already taken to provide the affected area residences with a safe alternate drinking water supply and the low contaminant levels in the remaining areas of contamination did not warrant any further cleanup actions at the site. The Vineland State School site is being closely monitored, however, to ensure that the steps taken to clean up subsite 2 remain effective.

A Close Out Report, the first step in the NPL site delisting process, was signed by the Regional Administrator in September 1992. The Notice of Intent to Delete was published in the Federal Register in August 1996. The final deletion notice was published in the Federal Register on May 7 1998.

## **Site Repositories**

City of Vineland Health Dept. 7th and Wood Streets, Vineland, N.J. 08360

Vineland City Library, 1058 East Landis Ave, Vineland, N.J. 08360